

## Garage Safety

In America there are nearly 21 million medical visits as a result of unintentional home injuries. However, home safety is not limited to the immediate living area. The garage also poses formidable threat if not kept clean and organized. The Home Safety Council emphasizes the importance of safety precautions in the garage. In order to keep your garage a safe place for the family, follow these safety tips from the Home Safety Council.

1. Organize all items in designated, easy-to-reach places, so large piles don't accumulate.
2. Store shovels, rakes, lawn chairs, bikes and other sharp and large objects on the wall to prevent trips and falls.
3. Clear floors and steps of clutter grease and spills.
4. Keep children's playthings in one area and within their reach to prevent children from exploring potentially dangerous areas.
5. Light your garage brightly with maximum safe wattage as designated by light fixtures.
6. Protect light bulbs near work areas with substantial guards to reduce risk of breakage and fire.
7. Light stairs brightly and install secure handrails or banisters on both sides that extend the entire length of the stairs.
8. Make sure poisonous products such as pesticides, automotive fluids, lighter fluid, paint thinner, antifreeze and turpentine have child-resistant caps, are clearly labeled and are stored either on a high shelf or in a locked cabinet.
9. Do not use barbeque grills and electric generators inside the garage as they emit carbon monoxide (CO) and pose a fire hazard.
10. Install a smoke alarm and CO detector in the garage.
11. Never leave cars running inside a closed or open garage to prevent CO poisoning.
12. Store gasoline in small quantities only and in a proper, tightly sealed container labeled "gasoline." Better Yet, Store Gasoline in an outside shed.
13. Do not keep gasoline in a garage with an appliance that contains a pilot light.
14. Mount a fire extinguisher and stocked first aid kit in the garage and make sure every family member knows where they are and how to use them.
15. Store pool chemicals according to the manufacturers' directions to prevent combustion and potential poisoning exposures.
16. Do not overload outlets and make sure the electrical ratings on extension cords have been checked to ensure they are carrying no more than their proper loads.
17. Lock electrical supply boxes to prevent children from opening them.

18. Clean garage of dust, webs and trash, which can interfere with the electrical system.
19. Properly secure shelving units to the wall, make sure they are not overloaded and store heavier items closest to the ground.
20. Keep a sturdy step stool within easy reach to aid in reaching items stored high up.



#### **Fire Extinguisher**

Put safety first with this high capacity rechargeable fire extinguisher. It's UL rated for all class home fires (A-B-C), is rechargeable and easily mounts anywhere in your garage